

Message Text

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14

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TOLD REPORTS IN OTTAWA THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 15 THAT TAIWANESE ATHLETES CAN "FLY WHAT FLAG THEY WANT AND PLAY WHAT TUNE THEY WANT BUT LET THEM NOT CALL THEMSELVES REPRESENTATIVES OF CHINA." THE PM SPOKE TO REPORTERS FOLLOWING PRESS REPORTS THAT THE IOC WAS CONSIDERING DRASTIC ACTION UP TO WITHDRAWAL OF SANCTION FOR THE MONTREAL GAMES IF A COMPROMISE WAS NOT WORKED OUT. CANADIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT A FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE AGREEMENT WAS SHAPING UP THURSDAY. ACCORDING TO CP, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT GAVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR THE TAIWAN TEAM TO USE THE FLAG AND ANTHEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT USE THAT NAME. CP REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

"THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, CALLED A "NEW FORMULA" BY A SPOKESMAN IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, EVIDENTLY CAUGHT SOME MEMBERS OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPT BY SURPRISE. ONE SPOKESMAN WAS STILL GIVING THE FORMER OFFICIAL LINE AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SPOKEN TO REPORTERS. THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTED

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AFTER THE CABINET DISCUSSED THE TAIWANESE SITUATION

AT LENGTH. HE (THE PRIME MINISTER) HAD TALKED WITH REPORTERS EARLIER ABOUT HAVING GIVEN THE CANADIAN POSITION TO LORD KILLANIN BY TELEPHONE AND IT SOUNDED UNCHANGED FROM THE PAST.

"THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ONE REMARK -- THE HE DID NOT CARE WHAT 'BANNERS' ATHLETES PLAYED UNDER -- ESCAPED NOTICE FOR A TIME. "IN HIS LATER REMARKS HE SAID THAT IN THE 1960 ROME OLYMPICS, THE TAIWANESE USED THAT NAME BUT 'TOOTED WHAT MUSIC THEY LIKED. THEY COULD DO THE SAME IN MONTREAL, HE SAID."

CP FURTHER QUOTED THE PM AS SAYING THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH THE FLAG. IF THE ATHLETES CALLED THEMSELVES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IT DID NOT MATTER IF THERE WERE 17, 70 OR 700 ATHLETES, IT WOULD NOT MAKE IT ANY BETTER FOR CANADA. ASKED TO CONFIRM THAT THE TAIWANESE COULD USE THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ANTHEM, HE SAID IT WAS IN CHINESE AND HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT IT SAYS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT LORD KILLANIN HAD NOT MENTIONED THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF ALLOWING THE FIVE TAIWANESE NOW IN CANADA ON DUAL PASSPORTS TO MARCH IN THE PARADE UNDER THE ROC FLAG.

CP REPORTED THAT IT APPEARED, BUT IS NOT FULLY CLEAR THAT "MR. TRUDEAU'S STATEMENT CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE FULL TEAM OF 65 TAIWAN ATHLETES, OFFICIALS, AND COACHES TO ENTER CANADA, ALTHOUGH THE LATEST THREATS FROM OLYMPIC OFFICIALS DEMANDED THAT ONLY TWO YACHTSMEN AND THREE YACHTING TEAM OFFICIALS ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY BE PERMITTED TO MARCH UNDER THE ROC FLAG."

ENDERS

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